



Docket: 71511

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of:

Perri et al.

Serial No.: 10/036,912

Group Art Unit: 1625

Filed: December 21, 2001

Examiner: Bernard Dentz

For: IMPROVED PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ASCORBIC ACID

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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AMENDMENT

In Response to the Office Action mailed on October 11, 2002, Paper No. 6, entry of the following amendment and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested. Submitted herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3) wherein Applicants request a 1 month extension for the period for responding to the Office Action.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-18.

Please add claim 58 as follows:

58. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the starting material comprises 2-keto-L-gulonic acid, diacetone-2-keto-L-gulonic acid, or an ester of 2-keto-L-gulonic acid.

Please rewrite claims 19 and 25-29 as follows:

19. (Amended) A continuous process for manufacturing L-ascorbic acid comprising the steps of:

- (a) heating an aqueous solution of a starting material comprising 2-keto-L-gulonic acid or a derivative of 2-keto-L-gulonic acid in a reactor in the presence of at least one sulfite species under conditions such that L-ascorbic acid is generated;
- (b) continuously removing from the reactor a post-reaction solution comprising unreacted starting material and L-ascorbic acid;
- (c) removing at least a portion of sulfur containing compounds from the post-reaction solution;